



Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.

PO Box 90 Nedlands WA 6009

www.afgw.org.au

2 August 2015

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Minister for Education and Training
PO Box 6022
Australian Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc to share with you in celebrating Google's announcement of providing grants to promote science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and computer science education particularly among women and girls who are among the low uptake sector.

As you will know AFGW is the national voice of graduate women working, since 1922, through initiatives in Education for the advancement and wellbeing of women and girls. While our main concerns have traditionally been with Higher Education in the sense of university education, AFGW has increasingly recognised that the blurring of traditional lines between the university and VET sectors, and the growth of pathways between them, means that the VET sector is now a matter to which we should pay greater attention.

The promotion of STEM subjects for women and girls is a central focus for our international arm Graduate Women International (formerly the International Federation of University Women). Enclosed is a copy of the pamphlet which was circulated at the UN Commission for the Status of Women earlier this year. I hope you will find it interesting and the statistics helpful in your further promotion of the importance of STEM education and skills.

In Australia AFGW has endeavoured to promote women's achievements in STEM areas through our national and state scholarships. We are also exploring the possibility of being actively involved in promoting STEM in schools through our membership of the economic Security for Women Alliance

Thank you for your involvement in the significant development for women students.

Yours sincerely,

'Tricia Blombery

Convenor Standing Committee for Education

for Dr Madeleine Laming, President AFGW Inc